

## **WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION**

**Meeting Minutes - May 2, 2001**

**Logansport/France Park**

### **Members present**

Allen-Ron James  
Cass-Janet Fawley  
Fountain-Jim Starling  
Huntington-Dwight Ericsson  
Huntington-Mike Mettler (alternate)  
Parke-John Isaacs  
Sullivan-John Gettinger  
Tippecanoe-Norman "Lucky" Neiburger  
Vigo-Keith Ruble  
Wabash-C. Robert Elrod  
Wells-Keith Huffman  
DNR-Steve Morris  
DOC Tourism-Marianna Weinzapfel  
IDEM-Matt Jarvis (alternate)  
INDOT-John Leckie

### **Counties not represented:**

Carroll  
Gibson  
Jay  
Knox  
Vermillion

### **Proxies**

Adams proxy given to Norman Neiburger  
Miami proxy given to Janet Fawley  
Posey proxy given to Norman Neiburger  
Warren proxy given to Norman Neiburger -  
(verbal proxy)

### **Dept. of Natural Resources staff present:**

Cynthia Webb-DNR Outdoor Recreation

### **Visitors present:**

Dan McCain-Wabash and Erie Canal  
Jim New-J. F. New & Associates  
Don Morrison-Ecologistics Limited  
Dan and Louise Jewell-Warren County  
Park Board  
Ruth Isaacs-Park County  
Mercedes Brugh-Little Turtle Waterway  
Erik Aleson-Cass County Park Department  
Rory Robinson-National Park Service  
Bernie Dahl-Banks of the Wabash

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Lucky Neiburger called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. All attendees present introduced themselves.

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 7<sup>th</sup>, 2001 MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes approved as written.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT-Deferred to Old Business**

### **COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORT**

Steve Morris presented the financial report. There was \$1,166.69 in the account after receiving \$1,000 from Vigo County. \$697.50 was used for brochures, leaving a balance of \$469.19.

## **BANKS OF THE WABASH REPORT**

Bernie Dahl reported that Banks of the Wabash's annual meeting was a success. Bernie introduced a Wabash River Corridor Framework/Management Plan prepared by Purdue University students. He also passed out The Wabash Walker newsletter produced in cooperation with Eli Lilly. The Wabash Walking Weekend 2001 will be August 11 & 12.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Position description for proposed staff**

Ron James discussed a rough draft for the position description for an Executive Director for the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission. Keith Huffman motioned to place "grant writing" under both the duties and qualifications. Jim Starling seconded. Motion carried. Keith Huffman made motion to have the phrase "in business and related field and at least" under number 1 of qualifications removed and have "and/or" entered there. Jim Starling seconded. Motion passed. Dwight Ericsson made a motion to amend the motion to state "ideal candidate will have the following qualifications" to be entered after C. Motion was seconded by John Gettinger. Motion passed. A vote was taken on the motion that would now include the amendment.

### **Distribution of WRHC interpretive brochures**

Steve Morris distributed 2 boxes of brochures to Welcome Centers, with Henryville Welcome Center requesting 3 boxes. The major rest areas have been called to see if they need more brochures. Rory Robinson suggested that the commission consider reprinting the brochure since it has been so popular. Steve Morris will inventory the number of remaining brochures and report back at the July meeting.

### **Newsletter/Website**

Newsletters have been mailed out since the meeting of March 7, 2001. Everybody should have received newsletters.

Dale Brier is updating the county pages of the WRHCC website. All the county representatives were sent a copy of what was currently listed for their page.

### **State ID cards for commission members**

Steve Morris is still looking into getting ID cards for the Commission members.

### **Canoe access and canoe campgrounds**

Steve Morris passed out a sheet showing the water trail along the Wabash River that highlights the access sites and campgrounds. The access site at Covington needs to be added. Marianna Weinzapfel suggested putting the water trail map on the website.

## **OLD BUSINESS (continued)**

### **Upper Wabash Commission**

There was some discussion of the proposed Upper Wabash Commission. It was reported that the new commission was being appropriated approximately \$18,000 in the state budget. Keith Huffman reported the commission was primarily formed to deal with logjams. Other issues targeted by the commission would be education related to water quality. Concerns were expressed as to whether or not the new 4 county commission would align with the goals of the WRHCC. It was suggested to invite a representative of the new commission to attend WRHCC meetings.

### **BREAK/SPEAKER**

Janet Fawley, Erik Aleson, and Jim New of J.F. New and Associates lead a guided tour of France Park's newly constructed wetlands for sewage treatment.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Commission Action Plan**

Rory Robinson from the National Park Service was going to facilitate discussion of a list of goals for the Commission Action Plan. Due to a lack of time it was suggested an additional meeting or one of the other Commission meetings be used. Dwight Ericsson suggested using the July meeting and taking from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM block of time to discuss the plan. Discussed was using the next meeting held at Turkey Run State Park using an hour for the meeting (starting at 10:30 AM) and then the rest of the afternoon spent going over the Action Plan. Dwight Ericsson made the motion that the Commission meet at 10:30 AM and have a one-hour business meeting, lunch there and then have the Planning Session. Janet Fawley seconded. Motion passed.

### **Suggestions for future speakers**

Lucky Neiburger will try to schedule a speaker for the September meeting. Matt Jarvis will try to find a speaker from IDEM for the November meeting. The context will be information on grant programs that would be of interest to the commission.

### **Letter sent**

Lucky Neiburger sent a letter to Keith Hiestand commending him on his river trip on the Wabash. The commission will be unable to fund the trip but wished him well.

### **Letters received**

Steve Morris received a resolution from Fountain County appointing Ron Howard as commission member as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. Jim Starling is leaving the committee.

Hoosier Heartland Newsletter was sent from INDOT. It shows routes that are proposed from Lafayette to Logansport.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Lucky Neiburger requested the grant committee get together after the meeting for a few minutes.

Rory Robinson announced a legal issues workshop on June 5<sup>th</sup> related to trails and railroad right-of-ways on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The workshop is sponsored by Indiana Park and Recreation Association's Trail and Greenways Interest Section.

National Trail's Day is scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Steve Morris made copies of Indiana Code 14-13-6 and commission by-laws available to the new members.

Mercedes Brugh reminded everyone to thank the legislators for their help in securing funding for the Wabash River Heritage Corridor and the Commission.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 at Turkey Run State Park in Parke County.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motioned by John Gettinger. Seconded by John Isaacs. Passed.